

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method **of utilizing signet inputs**, comprising:

generating ~~[[a]]~~ touch signals ~~with a signet anywhere and in any orientation~~ on a touch sensitive surface, ~~the~~;

determining whether a given touch signal is generated from a finger, stylus or signet;

filtering out any finger or stylus generated touch signal as being a non-signet input;

processing further any signet generated touch signals, with each such signet generated

touch signal representing a particular ~~signet shape, wherein the particular signet shape is the~~ shape **or pattern** of the **respective generating** signet itself;

recognizing the particular signet shape **or pattern**; and

performing an action associated with the particular signet shape **or pattern**.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said recognizing includes comparing the touch signal to one or more signet signals.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the action includes opening one or more restricted areas within a computer system.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the action includes configuring a computer system to a particular user.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the action is configured to launch a program.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the action includes encrypting or decoding a message.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said recognizing includes comparing the shape of a contact area with a list of signet shapes, and wherein the action is performed when the shape of the contact area matches the signet shape.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a touch screen that generates signet data associated with a signet shape or pattern when a signet ~~having the signet shape~~ is placed ~~at any location and in any orientation~~ on the touch screen; and

a computer that

determines whether a given contact on the touch screen is generated from a finger, stylus or signet,

filters out any finger or stylus generated contact as being a non-signet input,

recognizes ~~the~~ signet data for a signet contact on the touch screen, and ~~that~~

initiates an action associated with the recognized signet data, ~~wherein the signet shape is the shape of the signet itself.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 8 wherein the action includes logging onto the computer system, permitting authorized individuals access to restricted areas of the computer system, loading a user profile associated with a user's preferred arrangement of the computer system, permitting access to web content, launching a program, opening a file or document, viewing a menu, making a selection, executing instructions, encrypting or decoding a message, or operating an input device.

10. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 8 wherein the signet corresponds to a ring, a tag, a card, a token, a stamp, or a key.

11. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 8 wherein the signet pattern corresponds to the shape of the signet.

12. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 8 wherein the signet pattern is formed on the signet, the signet pattern being a raised or recessed portion of the signet.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system as recited in claim 8 wherein the touch screen is configured with a plurality of sensor coordinates that represent different points on the touch screen, the sensor coordinates activating when the signet is pressed against the touch screen, the activated sensor coordinates representing the shape of the signet pattern.

14. (Currently Amended) A signet system, comprising:

a signet having a distinctive shape or pattern thereon, wherein said signet is an inanimate object adapted to be manipulated by a user, and wherein said signet is selected from the group consisting of a roller signet, a punch card signet, and a ring signet adapted to be worn by the user;

a touch sensitive area for placing ~~[[a]]~~ **said** signet ~~having a signet shape~~; and
a detection system for generating a touch signal when the signet is presented ~~to any location and in any orientation~~ on the touch sensitive area and for extracting shape **or pattern** data associated with the signet from the touch signal, ~~wherein the signet shape is the shape of the signet itself.~~

15. (Previously Presented) The signet system as recited in claim 14 wherein detection system includes a sensing device and a control device, the sensing device being configured to register touches on the touch sensitive area and the control device being configured to monitor the touches and to translate the touches into shape data.

16. (Original) The signet system as recited in claim 15 wherein the sensing device corresponds to a resistive sensing device, a capacitive sensing device, an acoustic wave sensing device or an infrared sensing device.

17. (Original) The signet system as recited in claim 15 wherein the control device includes a sensor controller and a processor, the sensor controller being configured to convert the touches into touch events, the processor being configured to interpret the touch events into shape data and to transmit the results to other components.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing at least computer code executable by a computer, the computer code comprising:

storing shape data associated with one or more signets;

determining whether a given touch signal on an associated touch sensitive device is generated from a finger, stylus or signet data;

filtering out finger or stylus generated touch signal as being a non-signet input data;

generating shape data based on a signet placed ~~at any location and in any orientation~~ on said touch sensitive device;

comparing the generated shape data to the stored shape data; and

performing an action associated with the stored shape data when the generated shape data matches the stored shape data wherein the shape data is the shape of the signet itself.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The signet system of claim 21, further comprising:

a plurality of signets having a multiplicity of distinctive shapes or patterns thereon, wherein each of said plurality of signets is an inanimate object adapted to be manipulated by a user.

22. (New) The signet system of claim 21, wherein said plurality of signets are provided to users as part of a promotion, and wherein said plurality of promotional signets include one or more winning signets.